

igrants had arrived in town the evening before. Curiosity caused him to make inquiries, when, to his astonishment, he found that those whom he was going to St. Louis to escort, were already in Galena. He at once directed that the able bodied men should start for the new settlement, and assist in building the necessary shelter for the reception of the colonists, while he would arrange to follow with the main body.

On the afternoon of the same day, eighteen men started on foot for the settlement, with eager steps, a distance of sixty-two miles. They traveled all night and the next day, when they arrived at Wiota, in La Fayette County. There they obtained a night's shelter in a stable; and the next morning, after procuring the services of a guide, there being no traveled track there, and buying some flour at a mill on the Yellow Stone River, they, without much difficulty, walked the rest of the way to their land, arriving late in the evening, foot-sore and weary.

They related that every person whom they met, fled at their approach, and no wonder; for bearded, unkempt, and ragged as they were, carrying axes and tools of every description, and bags of flour and provisions, they at a distance more resembled a band of robbers than a party of honest emigrants.

Upon their arrival, they united with their three predecessors, and erected a much larger hut than the primitive structure. This was located near the west wall, and within the enclosure of the old grave-yard, and close to where the district school-house now stands. Its size is not recollected. A large excavation was made in the hill-side, posts were inserted in the ground, the sides inclosed with boards hauled sixty-two miles from Galena, and covered with boughs and wild hay. The floor was constructed of split poplar logs, the riven side uppermost; and no windows, nor chimney. All possible diligence was used to complete the rude structure, and have it in readiness for the coming colonists. Autumn was at hand, and winter approaching. Some of the men were carpenters, who had brought their tools with them from their old Switzerland home.

After the shelter was prepared, which took but a few days, the colonists all arrived, teams having been hired at Galena to convey